

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030044

53

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030044

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM - NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 018860, 27067

1. US REP MADE STATEMENT IN PERMANENT COUNCIL FEBRUARY
6 WITHDRAWING REMAINING US AMENDMENTS IN EFFORT TO SPEED
UP PROCESS OF CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT OAS CHARTER. TEXT
OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QTE MR. CHAIRMAN:

WHEN AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD ORIGINALLY RAISED THE MATTER
OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE DIRECTION
OF CHARTER REFORM IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL COM-
MITTEE IN DECEMBER, HE NOTED WITH REGRET THAT OUR
DELEGATION SHARED A DISPROPORTIONATE MEASURE OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 030044

BLAME FOR HAVING FAILED TO MAKE ITS POSITION COMPLETELY

CLEAR. IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, WE HAVE PRESENTED A LENGTHY SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO A GREAT MANY ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT CHARTER THAT WERE INTENDED TO REMEDY OUR PREVIOUS IMPRECISION. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR PATIENCE IN RECEIVING THESE PROPOSALS AND FOR HEARING OUT OUR ARGUMENTS FOR THEIR ADOPTION IN WHAT WE FEEL IS THE INTEREST OF A MORE EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION. THIS DEBATE HAS BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE AND COVERED ALL THE POINTS OF SUBSTANCE WE INTENDED TO RAISE. THE FEW REMAINING AMENDMENTS WE SUBMITTED, THOSE RELATING TO THE SECTION ON ECONOMIC STANDARDS, INVOLVE ISSUES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN AMPLY DEBATED AND WE BELIEVE OUR POSITION IS NOW SUFFICIENTLY WELL KNOWN TO MAKE SUPERFLUOUS A CONTINUING DEBATE OF THE SAME TOPICS. WE NOW THEREFORE WITHDRAW OUR PENDING AMENDMENTS AND WILL PROPOSE NO FURTHER ONES, THOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER OPINIONS ON THE MATTERS AT HAND AND WILL VOTE OUR CONVICTIONS.

AT THE CLOSE OF THIS PROCESS OF CONSIDERATION BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE RESULTING DRAFT CHARTER AND AN ACCOMPANYING REPORT WILL BE CIRCULATED TO THE MEMBER STATES IN PREPARATION FOR A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AS YOU KNOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE FORMULATED SOME ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR REFORM OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HAVE DISCUSSED THEM IN GENERAL TERMS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THESE MAY HAVE STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH SOME GOVERNMENTS WHO WILL BE MOVED TO OFFER PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN WHEN THE OCCASION IS OFFERED. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THIS BROADENED PROCESS OF CONSIDERATION WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS BEFORE THE REFORM PROCESS MOVES INTO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY STAGE AND THAT THE ENSUING DIALOGUE WILL PRODUCE SOME INNOVATIONS THAT WILL WIN THE BROADEST APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE. END QTE

2. WE HAVE AUTHORIZED OUR AMBASSADORS TO APPROACH FONMINS FACIO, LIEVANO, BLANCO AND SILVEIRA TO DISCUSS US PROPOSALS SKETCHED OUT IN STATE 018860 AND ARE AWAITING THEIR REACTIONS. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ENCOURAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 030044

THEM TO INJECT SOME OF OUR IDEAS (OR SIMILAR ONES OF THEIR OWN) INTO REFORM PROCESS WHEN ITEM-BY-ITEM CONSIDERATION IS OVER IN PERMANENT COUNCIL AND BEFORE CONVENING OF SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO STUDY DRAFT. WE HOPE THAT ONE OR ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BEGIN OFFERING NEW IDEAS IN THIS INTERVAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WILL DEVELOP. FOR PRESENT, WE BELIEVE PROPER COURSE OF ACTION IS TO LET FOUR SYMPATHETIC FOREIGN

MINISTERS MULL OVER OUR SUGGESTIONS AND DECIDE IF OR
HOW TO SHORT CIRCUIT PERMANENT COUNCIL-APPROVED DRAFT
CHARTER.

3. BECAUSE ONE OF IMPORTANT THEMES OF SECRETARY'S
VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA WILL BE EFFORT TO REVAMP OAS
WE HAVE STRONGLY ADVOCATED SCHEDULING HIS LONG DELAYED
MEETING WITH OAS SEC GEN ORFILA IN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

MEETING WOULD ALLOW SECRETARY TO OUTLINE OUR PROPOSALS
TO ORFILA AND GET HIS VIEWS ON HOW TO WIN SUBSTANTIAL
SUPPORT FOR THEM IN LATIN AMERICA. ORFILA MAY BE
INSPIRED TO MAKE A TRIP OF HIS OWN IF HE SEES MERIT
IN IDEA OF EXPANDING MODEST CHARTER REFORM OPERATION
INTO BROAD EXCAVATION OF OAS UNDERPINNINGS. SISCO

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